Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Amended) A computer-implemented mapping method of classifying a plurality of informational items in an information retrieval ~~without forming a probabilistic predictive model~~ system, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a first informational item;

identifying a second informational item;

applying an ensemble of algorithms to determine an integer-weight relationship link between said first and second informational items;

detecting an access of [[a]] said first informational item;

detecting an access of [[a]] said second informational item;

establishing that a relationship link exists between said first informational item and said second informational item;

determining an integer-value weight based on the historical frequency of said relationship link;

applying an ensemble of algorithms to said first and second informational items relative to said integer-value weight of said relationship link; [[and]]

assigning said integer-value weight to the output of said ensemble of algorithms[[.]]; and

storing the output of said ensemble of algorithms.

2. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said steps of identifying and detecting the second informational item includes [[the]] identifying and detecting of a plurality of informational items.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising the step of:

applying an algorithm for data aging wherein the usage of the relationship link is monitored and used as feed back for the integer-value weight associated with the relationship link.

5. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 4, further comprising the step of:

applying a pruning algorithm wherein external information regarding the usefulness of at least one relationship link is utilized to modify the integer-value weight or existence of a recorded relationship link.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 5, wherein said pruning algorithm performs the removal of irrelevant relationship links subsequent to the data aging feedback process.

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 5, wherein said pruning algorithm makes use of a user determined feedback of the usefulness of a relationship link.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein said ensemble includes a plurality of algorithms and wherein said relationship link integer-value weight is adjusted in direct proportion to the number of algorithms within said ensemble of algorithms that determine the existence of said relationship link.

9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein said relationship link is positioned in a list in direct proportion to the degree of consensus among said ensemble of algorithms.

10. (Original) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein said ensemble includes a plurality of algorithms and wherein each algorithm within said ensemble of algorithms runs independently of all other algorithms.

11. (Original) The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising the step of merging the outputs of said ensemble of algorithms.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising the step of recording said relationship link in a non-Bayesian-type network.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Amended) An apparatus for providing classification of informational items in an information retrieval system having a network structure which allows cycles ~~without forming a probabilistic predictive model~~ comprising:

means for detecting the access of informational items;

means for applying an ensemble of algorithms to the accessed informational items;

means for establishing the existence of relationship links between said informational items to enhance the effectiveness of said information retrieval system; [[and]]

means for weighting said relationship links, said weight being directly proportional to the outcome of said ensemble of algorithms; and [[.]]

means for storing said relationship links and relationship link weights.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14 including:

means for aging said relationship links; and

means for pruning said relationship links.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15 including means for merging the resulting output of said ensemble of algorithms into a knowledge network.

17. (Original) A computer readable storage medium having stored thereon a computer program for implementing a method of classifying a plurality of information items in an information retrieval system, said computer program comprising a set of instructions for implementing the steps recited in claim 2.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 17, wherein said computer program further comprises one or more instructions for clustering the resulting output of said ensemble of algorithms into a knowledge network.

19. (Original) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 17, wherein said computer program further comprises one or more instructions for improving the usefulness of said relationship links through weighting of said relationship links.

20. (Original) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 17, wherein said computer program further comprises one or more instructions for improving the usefulness of said relationship links through pruning of said relationship links.

21. (Original) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 17, wherein said computer program further comprises one or more instructions for improving the usefulness of said relationship links through aging of said relationship links.

22. (Original) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 17, wherein said computer program further comprises one or more instructions for improving the usefulness of said relationship links through weighting, pruning and aging of said relationship links.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 4, wherein said algorithm for data aging runs as a function of traffic load to age the relationship links according to relevance of the relationship links.

28. (Amended) A computer-implemented mapping method of classifying a plurality of informational items in an information retrieval system ~~without forming a probabilistic predictive~~, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting an access of a first informational item;

detecting an access of a second informational item;

establishing that a relationship link exists between said first informational item and said second informational item;

determining an integer-value weight based on the historical frequency of said relationship link;

applying an ensemble of clustering algorithms directly proportional to said integer-value weight of said relationship link; and

combining and merging the output of said ensemble of clustering algorithms to pre-populate the informational retrieval system; and ~~wherein the informational retrieval system may be a Baysean or a non-Baysean system.~~

storing the output of said ensemble of clustering algorithms.